FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Normally the term of deputation ranges between 3 to 5 years and it depends upon the rules governing the deputation post.

(a) No officer has managed to stay beyond period of deputation.

(b) Does not arise.

Capital punishment to drug smugglers

† 3167. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would like to amend the present law to give capital punis'hment to the drug smugglers on the lines of China where ten drug smugglers were given capital punishment on 26th June, 2000; and

(b) if so, by when Government would take initiative in this regard and if not, the manner in which Government would check the smuggling of drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) There is already a provision under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, for imposition of death penalty for certain offences after previous conviction.

Persons involved in Fera Violation

3168. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the persons involved in violation of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) during 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) whether charges against them have not been framed so far;

(c) if so, the. reasons for delay in framing charges;

(d) the cases taken up for investigation;

(e) the number of cases in which Show Cause Notices (SCNs) have been issued; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(f) the number of cases for which prosecution has been launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) A total of 5029 persons were found involved in violation of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) in the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

(b) and (c) Charges are framed in the form of issue of a Show Cause Notice. All the persons who have been found to have *prima facie* violated the provisions of FERA have been issued with a Show Cause Notice for departmental adjudication.

(a) 7612 cases were taken up for investigation during 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

(b) Show Cause Notices were issued in 5029 cases during 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

(c) Prosecutions were launched in 286 cases under Section 56 of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act during 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

Kisan Credit Card

3169. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether banks issue Kishan Credit Cards to farmers;

(b) if so, the benefits of these cards;

(c) the number of beneficiaries, State-wise; and

(d) the extent to which farmers could grow more as compared to previous years with the help of these cards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme aims at adequate and timely support from the banking system to the farmers for their cultivation needs including purchase of inputs in a flexible and cost effective manner. The benefits of KCCs include revolving cash credit facility with unlimited number of drawals and repayments within the ceiling limit, 3-year validity period, consideration of entire production credit needs for full year plus ancillary activities related to crop production while fixing credit limit, incentive for good performance by way of enhancement of credit limits, etc.